

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 remain cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10 are present for examination.

Obviousness Rejection:

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Hara (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0058084) in view of Fiammante (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0191721).

With respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9-10, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites an electronic ticket issuing system, comprising:

“a mobile terminal including a storage for storing an electronic ticket;
a ticket issuing center;
an authentication department; and
an authentication terminal, wherein:
the mobile terminal, the ticket issuing center, the authentication department, and the authentication terminal are connected to each other via a network, and the authentication terminal is connected to the mobile terminal to perform authentication between a ticket buyer and an electronic ticket;
first biological information which indicates unique physical characteristics of the ticket buyer is registered in advance in the authentication department;
the mobile terminal transmits a request for ticket purchase to the ticket issuing center;
the ticket issuing center transmits a request for issue of an electronic certificate to the authentication department to request the authentication department to issue an electronic certificate which corresponds to the request for ticket purchase transmitted from the mobile terminal and which validates the ticket buyer;
the authentication department creates an electronic certificate including the pre-registered first biological information on the basis of the request for issue of an electronic certificate transmitted from the ticket issuing center, and transmits the electronic certificate to the ticket issuing center;
the ticket issuing center creates an electronic ticket to which the electronic certificate transmitted from the authentication department is added, and transmits the electronic ticket to the mobile terminal;

the mobile terminal stores the electronic ticket transmitted from the ticket issuing center in the storage; and

wherein:

at the time of authentication:

(1) the mobile terminal transmits the electronic ticket stored in the storage to the authentication terminal;

(2) second biological information which indicates unique physical characteristics of the ticket buyer is input into the authentication terminal; and

(3) the authentication terminal performs authentication by comparing the first biological information, which is contained within the electronic certificate added to the electronic ticket, with the second biological information, and outputs a corresponding authentication result.” (Emphasis Added).

An electronic ticket issuing system including the above-quoted features has at least the advantage that a mobile terminal is provided with a storage for storing an electronic ticket, the mobile terminal is connected to a ticket issuing center via a network, the mobile terminal transmits a request for ticket purchase to the ticket issuing center, and the ticket issuing center creates an electronic ticket to which an electronic certificate including pre-registered first biological information is added and transmits the electronic ticket to the mobile terminal. Also, at the time of authentication, an authentication terminal performs authentication by comparing the first biological information contained within the electronic certificate added to the electronic ticket with second biological information input into the authentication terminal.

Neither O’Hara nor Fiammante, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an electronic ticket issuing system including the above-quoted features. The Examiner states that, “O’Hara teaches a ticket issuing system (100) and method that comprises a terminal including storage for a ticket, a ticket issuing center, an authentication department, and an authentication terminal, wherein the terminal, ticket issuing center, authentication department, and authentication terminal are connected to each other via a network (data network 106 and server 108)”, and that, “the terminal transmits a request for ticket purchase to the ticket issuing center”, and that, “the ticket issuing center creates an ticket to which the electronic certificate transmitted from the authentication department is added, and transmits the ticket to the terminal”. (Emphasis Added).

However, O'Hara neither discloses nor suggests a terminal including storage for a ticket where the terminal transmits a request for ticket purchase to a ticket issuing center and the ticket issuing center creates a ticket to which an electronic certificate transmitted from an authentication department is added, and transmits the ticket to the terminal. The system 100 of O'Hara comprises a check-in terminal 102, a gate terminal 104, and a server 108. (O'Hara; FIG. 1; paragraph [0016]). The check-in terminal 102 is considered to be a ticketing terminal and includes a data input terminal 102-10. (O'Hara; paragraph [0025]). The data input terminal 102-10 includes an output display device and a conventional keyboard which enables input of information. (O'Hara; paragraph [0025]). In the system of O'Hara, a printer 102-12 is also provided for printing tickets. (O'Hara; paragraph [0026]). Thus, in the system of O'Hara, there is no terminal including storage for a ticket that transmits a request for ticket purchase to the check-in terminal 102 and to which the check-in terminal 102 transmits the ticket, and which transmits the electronic ticket stored in the storage to the gate terminal 104.

The Examiner further states that, "O'Hara fails to teach that the terminal is mobile and that the ticket is in electronic form." (Emphasis Added). Indeed, O'Hara not only fails to teach that the terminal is mobile and that the ticket is in electronic form, but entirely fails to teach a terminal. There is no terminal in the system of O'Hara to which a ticket issuing center transmits a ticket and which transmits a ticket to an authentication terminal.

The Examiner also states that, "Fiammante discloses a ticket issuing system that comprises a mobile terminal (mobile phone 140)", and that, "the mobile terminal transmits a request for purchase to the ticket issuing center". (Emphasis Added). However, in the system of Fiammante, the mobile telephone 140 does not transmit a request for purchase to the server 200. In the system of Fiammante, user 100 runs a PC 110 to access a business application 210 on server 200. (Fiammante; paragraph [0022]). Then, in the system of Fiammante, a commercial transaction is initiated from PC 110 and the PC 110 is used to enter and transmit information related to the transaction. (Fiammante; paragraphs [0024]-[0027]). The mobile telephone 140 in the system of Fiammante is only used to obtain a signature for the commercial transaction entered by the PC 110. (Fiammante; paragraphs

[0028]-[0032])). Thus, the system of Fiammante requires a fixed terminal PC 110 to input transaction information.

Moreover, the server 200 in the system of Fiammante does not transmit a ticket to the mobile telephone 140, but only transmits transaction information of a transaction that has not yet been consummated. (Fiammante; paragraphs [0030]-[0033]). The Examiner states that, “Fiammante teaches the use of a commerce site which is able to provide a ticket in the form of a receipt of purchase of a product.” (Emphasis Added). However, when the transaction data is sent from the server 200 to the mobile phone 140, the transaction is not yet even completed, so the server does not transmit a receipt of purchase of a product to the mobile phone 140. The transaction is not approved until after the mobile phone transmits a signature. (Fiammante; FIG. 2, steps S145, S222, S223; paragraph [0033]). The final transaction status is viewed on the PC 110 and not on the mobile phone 140. (Fiammante; FIG. 2, step S116).

Thus, even if the system of Fiammante were included in the system of O’Hara, there would not be a mobile terminal that includes a storage for storing an electronic ticket that is connected to a ticket issuing center, an authentication department, and an authentication terminal, and that transmits a request for a ticket purchase to the ticket issuing center, receives an electronic ticket from the ticket issuing center, and transmits the electronic ticket stored in the storage to an authentication terminal where the electronic ticket includes biological information.

Furthermore, there is no motivation in either the Fiammante reference or the O’Hara reference to combine the system of Fiammante with the system of O’Hara. Indeed, O’Hara would not want the complicated system of having to include a fixed terminal PC to request a ticket and then sending a message to a mobile telephone to obtain a signature to verify the ticket request. The system of O’Hara is designed with a check in terminal that is “[l]ike the terminals commonly used in airport ticketing terminals today”, and there is no motivation in O’Hara to have electronic tickets. (O’Hara; paragraph [0025]).

Therefore, independent claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art and, hence, is believed to be allowable. The Patent Office has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Independent claim 5 recites an electronic ticket issuing method with features similar to features of an electronic ticket issuing system of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 5 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 9 recites an electronic ticket issuing system with features similar to features of an electronic ticket issuing system of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 9 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 10 recites an electronic ticket issuing method with features similar to features of an electronic ticket issuing system of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 10 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

The dependent claims are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons indicated above with regard to the independent claims from which they depend.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

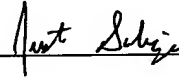
If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 30, 2005

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